



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA MAN INDICTED ON FIREARM VIOLATIONS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for illegal possession of a firearm.

Leroy Perry, 32, of Columbia, was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Perry** was a felon in possession of a firearm. The indictment alleges that he illegally possessed a loaded Jennings .38-caliber pistol on Oct. 9, 2003, in Boone County, Mo. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Perry** has a 1999 criminal felony conviction for distributing cocaine.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Perry** was an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm when he possessed the .38-caliber pistol on Oct. 9, 2003. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Douglas Shull. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Columbia, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States

Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow